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# A RELATION OF THE Miraculous Cure OF *SUSANNAH ARCH*, OF A Leprosy and Ptysick,

Wherewith for some Years past she had been sorely afflicted.

Psal. 75. 1. —*For that thy Name is near, thy wondrous Works declare.*

*LONDON*,
Printed by *J. D.* and sold by *R. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane*. MDCXCV.

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# THE PREFACE.

THE Works of God call for serious Observation from all who are Spectators of them, and are very instructive to the Children of Men. By these God may be said to speak Once, yea Twice, yet Man perceives it not. We are with the utmost Diligence to apply our selves to the right understanding of the Voice of God in them, Psal. 111. 2. The Works of the Lord are great, particularly the Works of Creation, which do always speak with a loud Voice to the Inhabitants of the Earth, Psal. 19. 1, 2, 3. The Heavens declare the

Glory of God, and the Firmament ſheweth his Handy-work. Day unto Day uttereth Speech, &c. *The viſible Heavens, ſo vaſt and ſpacious, richly adorned with Sun, Moon, and Stars, which are admirable in their Courſe, and powerful in their Influence; theſe are a legible Book, wherein we may read what a glorious Being God is, who is the Maker and Former of theſe glorious Creatures: and from the Conſideration thereof reflect on Man as a vile contemptible Creature*; Pſal. 8. 3, 4. When I conſider thy Heavens, the Work of thy Fingers, the Moon and the Stars which thou haſt ordained, what is Man that thou art mindful of him? &c.

*And as the Works of Creation are great, ſo the Works of Providence (whereby he governs, preſerves, orders and diſpoſes of all things in the World)*

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*are great alſo, eſpecially in and for his Church and People; the Infinite Power, Wiſdom and Goodneſs of God being abundantly manifeſted in them. Theſe Works of God are to be narrowly inſpected, found out, and ſearched into by all thoſe that take Pleaſure therein: And it is a God-provoking Sin not to regard the Works of the Lord, and the Operations of his Hands. For this Sin God threatens to deſtroy a People, and not build them up,* Pſal. 28. 5. *Sometimes God goes out of his uſual Courſe of Providence, and works miraculouſly (an eminent Inſtance whereof we have in this Narrative). This he doth ſometimes immediately,* Mark 6. 52. Joh. 2. 11. *ſometimes mediately,* Mark 9. 38, 39. Acts 4. 16, 22.

*Here might be conſidered what the glorious Deſign of God is in his miraculous Works.*

As, 1. To convince an Atheistical Generation of Men, that there is a God that acts above the Power of Nature or natural Causes, 2 Kings 5. 15.

2. That those who contemn and undervalue the Lord Jesus Christ (through Faith in whose Name Lepers were cleansed, the Blind received their Sight, a Bloody Issue stopped, &c.) might be convinced that he was the true Messiah, yea God as well as Man.

Though Christ came in the Form of a Servant, yet the Glory of his Deity sparkled forth in divers Ways, and on divers Occasions, particularly in his miraculous Works, which none but a God could do, Joh. 9. 3. & 2. 11. Christ turns Water into Wine, and thereby shewed forth his Glory, even the Glory of the only begotten of the Father.

The Disciples of Christ wrought Miracles; but this they did in the Name

of Christ, Acts 3. *Whereas Christ wrought his by his own Divine Power, which may justly strike a Damp upon those who of late have been so unhappy as to deny the Divinity of our Lord Jesus.*

3. *Christ's miraculous Works are designed to strengthen the Faith of his People*; John 2. 11. *When Christ had wrought that Miracle of turning Water into Wine, it's said,* his Disciples believed on him. *They believed before, but now they were confirmed in their Faith.*

*And if so, then Christ's curing the Leprosy and other Distempers in our day, which in the Judgment of the ablest Physicians were incurable, is not slightly to be passed over.*

*That divers miraculous Cures have been wrought of late, immediately by the Divine Power of Christ without humane Means, is not to be denied by any*

*but such as are hardning themselves against Christ and his Works, as the unbelieving Jews did, who though Christ had done many mighty Works amongst them, yet they believed not on him,* John 12. 37.

*Amongst other wonderful Cures which the Lord Jesus hath lately wrought, this seems not to be the least which he hath wrought on the Body of* Susannah Arch; *of which this Narrative gives an impartial Account.*

*She is known to be a Woman of an holy Conversation, enjoys much Communion with God, and is a Member of a Congregation, meeting in* Devonshire-Square *in* London. *She lives at* Battle-Bridg *in* Southwark, *where any that desire it may receive further Satisfaction.*

# *A* NARRATIVE *of the Miraculous Cure of* Susannah Arch, *of a Leprosy and Ptyſick, wherewith for ſome Years paſt ſhe had been ſorely afflicted.*

I *Suſannah Arch* do ſolemnly declare, in the Fear of God, that my Diſtemper began about four Years ago with an extraordinary Itching and Scurf on my Head, and afterwards it ſpread over my Body. This continued about three Years before I adviſed with any Phyſician to know what it was; and then my Husband died, whoſe Death was attended with many aggravating Circumſtances, occaſioning much Sorrow and Grief; all which conduced to increaſe my Diſtemper. Under my great Diſtreſs of Body and Mind I was lamenting my ſelf, ſaying, What, a poor diſtreſſed Widow! a poor afflicted Widow! Then the Lord was pleaſed to give me in that Scrip-

Scripture, *Rom.* 8. 32. *He that ſpared not his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how ſhall he not with him freely give us all things?* This I took as a Bond from the Lord, wherein he was pleaſed graciouſly to bind himſelf to ſupply all my Neceſſities, which was much to my Support at that time. Immediately after my Husband's Burial, being left in a poor and deſolate Condition, that Scripture came to my Mind; *Job* 1. 21. *Naked came I out of my Mother's Womb, and naked ſhall I return again. The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away, and bleſſed be the Name of the Lord.* Under theſe ſad Exerciſes I was help'd to conſider, that my outward Condition was not worſe than my Lords and Maſter's; of whom it is ſaid, *Matth.* 8. 20. *The Foxes have Holes, and the Birds of the Air have Nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his Head.* Then was I help'd to ſay, I have loſt all, and yet have all; and to plead with God in the Words of *Jacob*, Gen. 32. 12. *Thou ſaidſt, I will do thee good.* Theſe and many other precious Words were powerfully impreſſed on my Soul for my Support and Comfort.

After theſe Troubles my Diſtemper much increaſed, and then I adviſed with Mr. *Forn* an Apothecary, who told me my Diſtemper was a Leproſy. I asked him whether it was curable: He told me, it was not curable. Then was I adviſed by his Wife to go to one Mr.

Mrs. *Griffin*, who is skilful in curing Scald Heads, and ſhe perſwaded me to go to the Hoſpital, but I found a Reluctancy in my ſelf thereto, having a Perſwaſion in my Mind from the time that Mr. *Foxy* told me it was incurable, that Jeſus Chriſt would cure it. Nevertheleſs conſidering that Paſſage of the Woman that had the Bloody Iſſue, though ſhe ſpent all on Phyſicians, yet this did not hinder her being cured by Chriſt when ſhe came to him: So I concluded my going to the Hoſpital might not hinder Chriſt's curing me: Thereupon I was ſatisfied in my ſelf to go; and when I preſented my ſelf to the Phyſician and Chirurgeons, they told me it was a Leproſy, and asked me what I deſired of them. I deſired to be an Out-patient, and they preſcribed me ſome things, but I had no Faith in the Succeſs of them, and ſo took but one Doſe, and threw the reſt away, looking to an higher Hand for my Cure. However I went a ſecond time, and then they who gave out the Medicines, ſeeing my Diſtemper, told me, it was in vain to ſpend my time in attending any further on them, for it was a Leproſy, and could not be cured. Not long after this I was ſent by a Friend of mine, on her own Account, to Dr. *Bourne*, and I took that Opportunity to ſhew him my Diſtemper: And when he ſaw it, he lift up his Hands, ſaying, Good Lord have Mercy upon thee!

it is a Leproſy. He likewiſe told me, there might be ſomething given to curb it (but not to cure it) if I had wherewithal to defray the Charge. I told him I was a poor Widow, and ſo concerned my ſelf no more with him. I went away from him full of Comfort, having this Perſwaſion, that Jeſus Chriſt would be my Phyſician, and would cure me.

After this I was ſent by the ſame Friend, and on her own Account, to Dr. *Clark*, and took that Opportunity to diſcover my Caſe to him, who knowing me, ſympathized with me, ſaying, Alas, poor Woman, it is a Leproſy! I asked him whether it could be cured: He told me, that ſomething might be given to check it, but not to cure it; and that if I would go to Mr. *Humes* an Apothecary, he would give Directions to him, and would do what he could for me. But having no Hopes of Cure from any humane Means, I concerned my ſelf no further with him in this Matter. One Reaſon why I had no Expectation of Cure from Man was, the occurring of that Scripture frequently to my Mind, *Mat.* 8. 2. *Lord, if thou wilt, thou canſt make me clean.* This I was enabled to plead before him with ſome Degree of Confidence that at laſt I ſhould prevail.

After this another Friend and Neighbour of mine being ſick, deſired me to go for her

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to Dr. *Nicholls*; and when I had diſcourſed with him concerning my Friend, I asked him what he thought of my Diſtemper? who anſwered, Alas! poor Woman, how came you by this Surfeit? I asked him what the Diſtemper was? and he likewiſe told me, as the others had done before, that it was a Leproſy, and incurable.

This I can truly ſay, that all along my Faith was fix'd on the Lord Jeſus Chriſt: It was on him I did and was reſolved to rely, who in the Days of his Fleſh, when on Earth, cured all Diſeaſes and Sickneſſes among the People; and I was confident, that he had the ſame Power now he was glorified in Heaven, as he had in the Days of his Humiliation.

There is one thing I think good to remark, *viz.* when I conſidered that I was a poor polluted unclean Leper, I was under ſome doubt (though afterwards I concluded it was from Satan) whether I might and ought to come to the Congregation of the Lord's People to whom I belong, to partake of that Bleſſed Ordinance of the Lord's Supper amongſt them. Labouring under ſtrong Conflicts about this Matter, as I was going to the Congregation, that Text came with Power on my Soul, *Gal.* 5. 1. *Stand faſt in the Liberty wherewith Chriſt hath made you free, and be not intangled again with the Yoke of Bondage.* By this Text I underſtood that

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the Law of the Leper, being part of th Ceremonial Law, is done away; and so that Doubt was removed.

Upon the last Day of *May*, 1694. at Night, when I was asleep in my Bed, I was pleading with God in those Words of the Psalmist, Psal. 57. 2. *I will cry unto God most High, unto him that performeth all things for me:* And then I thought I saw a Man standing by me, and laying his Hand on me, saying, *I will be thou clean.* I answered, *Lord, if thou sayest the Word, it is done.* To which I received this Reply, *All things are possible to him that believeth.* I answered, *Lord, I believe, help thou my Unbelief.* To which it was answered, *He that believes, needs not to say, but is whole every whit,* (the Hand being all the while upon my Hand) and thereupon I awaked, and perceived that it was a Dream. From that time (though I grew worse and worse) I was strongly perswaded that I should be made whole.

The next Morning a Christian Friend of mine came to see me, and brought a Woman with her, telling me, that she had brought one that could cure the Leprosy. I then said to the Woman, Can you cure the Leprosy? She said, Yes. But said I, You shall not cure me, for I have thrown my self on the Physician of Value, and he will cure me: And though you, or all the greatest

greateſt Doctors or Chirurgions in *London*, would give me a great Sum of Money, you ſhould none of you take me in hand.

After this I had divers Conflicts and Temptations to weaken my Confidence; but God was pleaſed to give in divers ſeaſonable Words for my Relief, and for the ſtrengthning of my Faith: As at one time that Text came with Power on my Soul, *Mark* 11. 22. *Have Faith in God.* And at another time that Text, *John* 11. 40. *Said I not unto thee, that if thou wouldſt believe thou ſhouldſt ſee the Glory of God?*

And at another time that Text, *Heb.* 10. 35. *Caſt not away your Confidence which hath great Recompence of Reward.*

And whereas I had been afflicted with a Phyſick for many Years, wherewith I was laid up every Winter; in *November* laſt it pleaſed the Lord to remove that Diſtemper, without the Uſe of any humane Means. And this was to me a Token for Good, that God would likewiſe cure me of my Leproſy. Soon after this, being at Mr. *Beverley*'s Meeting, and hearing the People talk of a miraculous Cure of one that was lame, I asked one that ſat by me concerning it: and ſhe told me, that a Maid that had been lame 17 Years was miraculouſly cured on a ſudden. Then I told her, I was waiting at the Pool, believing that I ſhould be made whole. From that time my Heart was drawn out to

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wreſtle more earneſtly with God for Cure, crying out, *Lord! why not I? why not I, a poor Leper?*

In *December* my Diſtemper growing worſe and worſe, both on my Head and Body, I met with ſome inward Struglings, but was help'd to ſay, in the Words of *Job*, *I know, O Lord, that thou canſt do every thing.* I was likewiſe help'd to ſay, from that of the three Worthies, *Dan.* 3. 17. *My God whom I ſerve is able to deliver me:* However I am reſolved to truſt in him.

And now to give a true and faithful Account how I was healed.

On the 26*th* of *December* at Night I went to Bed, as bad as ever I was; and in the Night I had grievous and ſore Temptations from my Adverſary, who told me I had no Faith; and that if I had Faith I might be healed; thoſe Words being caſt into my Mind, *O ye of little Faith:* and I was tempted to think I had no Faith, and that God did not love me, but I perceived this was to beat me off from my Confidence in God. Then was I help'd to look back to former Experience, and remembred that about 20 Years ago, when I was under great Diſtreſs about the State of my Soul, being under a deep Senſe of my Sin, I was help'd to caſt my Soul on the Lord Jeſus Chriſt. And from that Conſideration many times ſince,

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when I have been in great Diſtreſs, with reſpect to my outward Condition, I have been enabled to caſt my bodily Concerns upon him; and then I cried out, Lord, I have caſt my Soul upon thee, and my Body upon thee, and now I am reſolved to caſt all my Diſeaſes upon thee. Then was I help'd to plead with God, ſaying, Lord, if I have true Faith, if thou loveſt me, if I have an Intereſt in Chriſt, take away this Diſtemper before I die. Then Satan ſuggeſted to me, that I had ſinned with a witneſs in that I had limited God. But I was help'd to renew the ſame Petitions to the Lord, knowing I had not limited the Lord, only that he would cure me before I die. Then that Scripture was brought to my Mind, *Jam.* 4. 7. *Reſiſt the Devil, and he will flee from thee.* From which I was encouraged to reſiſt him, knowing that he was a conquered Enemy. Then I lay quiet and with a compoſed Mind till Morning. Next Day I found a marvellous Alteration, being much better and more chearful, which was diſcerned by a Friend of mine, who told me, that ſhe did perceive that I was much better.

The next Night after this, which was Thurſday Night, as I was in my Bed, I put my Hand to my Head, firſt on one ſide, and then on the other, and felt Skin on both Sides of it, which at firſt was ſurprizing and amazing to me. Then I ſaid, *Lord Jeſus! haſt*

*hast thou begun? thou wilt carry it on.* When I arose in the Morning, and had taken off my Head-clothes, I found the Scurf was gone from off my Head, only there remained like a little Cap on the Crown of my Head, which was easily taken off with a Comb, which I made use of for that end: And then appeared firm Skin all over my Head. At the same time my Distemper, which was spread over my whole Body from Head to Foot, even to my very Toes, was likewise taken away. And whereas I had neither Skin nor Hair on my Head before, my Hair is now grown to the Admiration of them that behold it. And to this Day, through the Lord's Goodness, I remain free both from Leprosy and Ptysick.

Jan. 16. 169⅘. *SUSANNAH ARCH*

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*SOME of us whose Names are subscribed have had certain Knowledg of* Susannah Arch's *Distempers, and also of her Cure: And we are all fully satisfied in the Truth of what is contained in this Narrative.*

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|---|---|
| William Kiffin, | John Piggott, |
| William Collins, | Benjamin Dennis, |
| Robert Stead, | William Draycot, |
| Richard Adams, | Robert Bartlett. |
| Edward Man, | |

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## The Certificate of *Charles Nicholls* Doctor of Physick.

*ON the* 29th *of* September *last*, Susannah Arch *coming to me on the behalf of another Woman, desired me to tell her what her own Distemper was? I gave it, as my Opinion, that it was a* Leprosy, *and could not perfectly be cured, but something might be given to check it, or keep it under. Furthermore, I coming this Day into* Southwark, *I saw this Woman cur'd of her sad Distemper; and by what I have heard her say, and is related in the foregoing Narrative, I do verily believe that it was done by the immediate Hand of God, as the Fruit and Effect of her Faith. I must say that I stand in Admiration in beholding this Woman cured. In witness of all which I set my Hand this* 18th *Day of* January, 169⅘.

Charles Nicholls.

## The Certificate of Mr. *Thomas Forty*, Apothecary.

I *Underſtand I was the firſt Perſon that* Suſannah Arch *came to enquire of about her Diſtemper, as ſhe declared; and I do teſtify, in the Fear of God, that I did and do believe ſhe had a* Leproſy, *as is inſerted in this Narrative; and I have ſeen her ſeveral times ſince ſhe was cured: and by my conferring with her and others, I do declare, that I verily believe ſhe is perfectly cured; and that it was not done by any humane Means, but by the immediate Hand and Power of Jeſus Chriſt, as the Effect of her Faith. In witneſs of which I ſet my Hand this* 18th *Day of* January, 169$\frac{4}{5}$.

Thomas Forty.

## The Teſtimony of Mr. *Robert Hume*, Apothecary.

I Robert Hume *do declare, in the fear of the All-ſeeing, Heart-ſearching God, concerning* Suſannah Arch, *whom I have known for ſeveral Years, as followeth,* viz.

1. *She was, to my Knowledg, grievouſly afflicted with an* Aſthma, *commonly called a Ptyſick; yea I have ſeen her ſcarce able to go along the Street ſo faſt as a Child of two Years old. When her Husband was ill of the Sickneſs whereof he died, if ſhe went but croſs the Chamber, ſhe would pant like one almoſt expiring, inſomuch that I thought ſhe was more like to die than he: and ſo ſhe commonly was in the Winter, eſpecially in ſuch Weather as increaſes that Diſtemper.*

2. *One Day ſhe came to me, which I think was about* July *laſt, and ſhowed me her Head, ſaying, Sir, Can you tell me what*

*I have got here? I answered, It is a Leprosy (for so I think it was indeed, according to the Description of the best Authors): Ay, says she, so every Body tells me, for I have been at the Hospital, and they all say so of it, and tell me there is no Cure for it. I advised her to go to Doctor* Clark, *to hear what he would say of it. In a little time after she came and told me, she had showed it to Dr.* Clark, *and that he was of the same Opinion with the rest, however desired to speak with me about it: I went to him, but do not punctually remember what he said, but this I remember, that he look'd upon it to be a very sad difficult Case; so that I all along took it for granted that he look'd upon it to be a* Leprosy, *and that there was no Hope of Cure, for he ordered nothing for her.*

*Now as to these Matters I do further declare;*

1st. *As to her* Asthma: *I could not but admire when I was with her a little after she was cured of the* Leprosy, *and saw how she went a pretty way along the Street, and up a pair of Stairs, and that*

*in*

*in frosty Weather, without puffing and blowing, as she was used to do. I did take particular Notice how she could speak without fetching her Breath longer than a great many that never were afflicted with any such Indisposition.*

2dly. *As for the* Leprosy: *It was no less Wonder to me, that when I came to look upon that which formerly was in my Judgment Leprous as Snow, I found now was become as the Flesh of a young Child. I do verily believe she is wholly cured of it, there being all Symptoms of Soundness, and the Hair does grow apace. Let any doubtful, make what Search they will, I am not afraid of being found in a Mistake in this Matter. To the Truth of this Attestation, I have hereunto set my Hand this* 12th *Day of* February, 169$\frac{6}{7}$.

Robert Hume.

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FINIS.